

October 19, 1926.

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soft are not as elastic as harder shells and will stretch more, the final diameter being greater than shells with harder structure.

As a result of the examination of the above shells and bullets my conclusions are as follows:

Three shells fired in one arm. Three bullets fired in one arm. The characteristic marks on primers and fired shells and on the land and groove impressions of the bullet were such that it could be readily determined whether or not they were fired in any particular weapon making it impossible for the prosecution to "plant" or substitute any weapon.

The shells and bullets were fired in a Colt pistol or a foreign imitation of the same.

At a conference in your office October 15th you enquired as to the possibility of the particular exhibits having been fired in an Iver-Johnson revolver. It would be possible to fire the .32 Auto. Colt cartridge in an Iver-Johnson revolver chambered for the .32 S. & W. Long cartridge but it would be impossible or impractical to shoot this cartridge in an Iver-Johnson revolver chambered for the .32 S. & W. Short cartridge. In this connection, however, we can state definitely that the recovered bullets were not fired in an Iver-Johnson revolver which has measurements radically different from the Colt. The Iver-Johnson barrel has five lands and grooves with a right hand twist and the width of land is approximately twice that of the Colt.

Mrs. Mills forehead showed a distinct powder ring when found. The body had been exposed for approximately 36 hours. The question was asked as to whether this powder ring would still remain after this period. The presence of the powder ring would indicate that the muzzle of gun was held very close to the forehead, surely within 6 inches. We would expect the powder ring to fade somewhat after exposure but would not be entirely obliterated.

The question was asked as to how much the firing pin of an Iver-Johnson revolver must be filed to make it useless. I presume this is of no particular importance in this case but I would say that it cannot be definitely answered as there are so many factors which enter into the subject. In order to make the gun absolutely safe the firing pin must be filed so that there is no projection ~~on the under side~~. The amount which must be filed to cause misfires even though hitting the primer would depend upon the sensitiveness of the primer, the amount seated below the head of the shell and the strength of firing pin main spring.

Mr. Palzer suggested that I give you a synopsis of my experience and qualifications as an expert which are attached.

Very truly yours,

*Walter A. Robinson*